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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Letter dated 9 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on rejecting the erosion of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 128 (w).

(*Signed*) Mahmadamin **Mahmadaminov**

* The annex is being circulated in English and Russian only.

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Annex to the letter dated 9 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on rejecting the erosion of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Reaffirming their commitment to promote peace and global and regional stability and security, and *considering* that the emergence of a polycentric model of international relations reflects the undeniable changes in the world and meets the aspirations of the vast majority of countries,

Recognizing the seriousness of the growing threat to global peace and security from interference, including military, in the internal affairs of sovereign States,

Supporting the need to strengthen and develop mutually beneficial, equal and non-discriminatory cooperation, both bilaterally and through multilateral structures and forums, to ensure equal and indivisible security and mutual respect among all members of the international community on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, and to jointly uphold those principles,

Declare that our States are committed to the principles of international law as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of relationships between States enshrined in the 1975 Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Note that these principles are the cornerstone of fair and equitable international relations, establishing a common space for equal and indivisible security and economic cooperation,

Consider it counterproductive for a number of countries to impose their own values as universal and express our readiness to contribute towards strengthening the ethical dimension of international relations on the basis of the generally accepted norms and principles of international law,

Fully support the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States,

Regard any interference by States in the internal affairs of other States as a violation of that principle, including funding and training representatives of political parties and encouraging radical extremist forces to overthrow legitimate Governments,

Condemn extraterritorial application of national law by States that is not in conformity with international law,

Reaffirm the principle that States shall refrain from the threat or use of force in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Reject the application of unilateral restrictive measures as tools for political pressure, including economic and trade measures not in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and measures that go beyond the scope of the United Nations Security Council,

Consider unilateral coercive measures imposed in the absence of corresponding Security Council sanctions, or supplementary thereto, to be an example of a violation of the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and the other generally recognized principles and norms of international law, and to be an application of double standards,

Reaffirm the principle of the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Resolve to take joint steps to implement Security Council resolutions and prevent their broad interpretation, to counter illegitimate unilateral and bloc approaches to the settlement of crisis situations in the world, and to promote fair multilateral and collective approaches to address pressing global and regional problems.